

# *The Old Paludians*

Founded 1915



# *Newsletter*

Website: [www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)

## *March 2009*

The final task for the editor in the production of the annual newsletter is to write the editorial. This cannot be completed until everything else is in place because it is necessary to get a 'feel' for the publication - at least, that is how the editor sees it!. The question is 'What on earth shall I write about?' Or more grammatically, I suppose I should have written 'About what on earth shall I write?' This year has brought some sad changes to our small community. We have lost four much loved ex-members of staff as well as several old friends and our thoughts will be with them at the reunion. My thanks go to Valerie Storie and Jennifer James for their patience and support and also to everyone who sent in news. Whatever the length of your item and however it arrived, your contributions are very much appreciated. Thanks also must go to Mrs Lenton for allowing us to invade the school every year and to the staff who help both in the run-up to the Reunion and on the Day itself. We hope everyone will have a happy and memorable day.

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Welcome to the March 2009 newsletter. A big thank you to Shelagh Rothero (née Jacques) who has once again edited an interesting magazine which I hope you will enjoy. The production of the newsletter is very dependant on the contributions which you the members make and I thank those who have supported us this year.

The committee will be welcoming you to the Annual Reunion on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and once again I wish to thank Jennifer James (née Bond) for receiving and processing the replies. She has also taken the committee and AGM minutes. After four years, Jennifer has decided to retire in order to spend more time following her other interests, especially her new grandson. We appreciate all that she has done for us and wish her well in the future. This means that I am looking for a minute secretary and some one to process the replies and compile the attendance lists for next year's reunion. Please contact me if you can help.

In 2012 Slough Grammar School will celebrate 100 years since the foundation of Slough Secondary School. The Old Paludians Committee is already considering marking the occasion with the production of another book, this time with more photographs. In order to do this we will need contributions from members across the years who were at Slough Secondary School, Slough High School, Upton Grammar School and Slough Grammar School. I am letting you know this now in order to encourage you to start writing about your experiences whilst at School and to start sorting out photographs which may be suitable. We will form a book committee later in the year and I would like to know of any members who would like to be involved in this project.

Finally I wish to express my thanks to this year's committee for all of their hard work and to Mrs Margaret Lenton, our President, for her continuing support and friendship.

With best wishes to you all.

Jean Tyler

### **FAMILY GROUPS**

In response to a request from Jean Tyler in the 2007 Newsletter asking if anyone knew of large family groups who had attended the schools we have received more information. There are twenty one ex-SSS/SGS/SHS pupils on this list, which makes it a record!

Provided by Shirley Paintin (Martin 1944-49). There are twenty-one names on her list which shows the relationship of each person named to herself.

Ken Martin SGS (1936-42) cousin  
Beryl Brookes SSS (Martin) cousin, married George Brookes (SSS)  
Christopher Martin SGS (1950-54) brother  
Chris Martin SGS nephew  
Paul Bampton SGS (1944-50) brother-in-law  
Claire Hancock (Bampton) SHS niece  
Lisa Meroni (Sudlow 1976-80) SHS niece  
Kathleen Millard (Joiner) SSS aunt married Ronald Joiner SSS  
Brenda Rankin (Joiner) SHS cousin  
Diana Head (Joiner) SHS cousin  
Nora Lister (Carter) SSS cousin  
David Lister SGS son of Nora  
Robert Lister SGS son of Nora  
Andrew Lister SGS son of Nora  
Albert Carter SSS cousin  
Jean Allison (Carter) SSS cousin  
Lesley Summers SHS (1937-42) cousin-in-law

Many thanks to Shirley for sharing this information with us.

**THE ARCHIVES** Our Archive is developing into a remarkable record of the story of the Schools' history thanks to the continuing support of former pupils and staff. New contributions are always welcome and once again we are grateful to all those who have donated memorabilia this year. As usual, we never cease to be amazed not only by the variety of the donations but the fact they are in such excellent condition after what can sometimes be 75 or even 80 years!

We appreciate and will look after everything we are given. Regrettably, however, lack of storage space does make it difficult for us to display as much material as we would like. The Archive room is high on the 'must see' list for those attending the Reunion each year. **David Rogers** - Archivist.

#### **\*\*STAFF NEWS\*\***

**Doreen Pritchard** (Murden, 1951- 1956). I shall be unable to attend this year but I hope you all have a successful and happy day. With very good wishes. *The following news from Doreen arrived too late for inclusion in last year's newsletter, but we felt it should be included this year anyway - Ed:* 'It is now 50 years since I joined the Geography department of the High school and I have many pleasant memories especially of working with Stella Saunderson and other members of the school. I was married during my time at the school and was amazed to see one of the sixth formers on one of my wedding photos - she was doing a Christmas postal round and just happened to be passing! Now, 54 years later, I am enjoying retirement though not travelling as much as I would like. I shall not be able to come to the reunion, but will continue to enjoy the school news. My very good wishes to anyone who remembers me'.  
**Miss Booth** (1942-72) aged 97, still lives at home where she has lots of help and enjoys the company of the people who come into the house. *Thanks to Miss Rowland and Jean Tyler for this information - Ed.*

**Patricia Purdue** (School Matron, 1964-80) Unfortunately I am unable to come to the Reunion but I am very pleased to receive all the news. My husband died in May last year after a long disabling illness and some people will remember him being known by the girls as 'Mr Matron'. My very best wishes to the Reunion.

**Anne Chedlow** (1947-54) I shall not be with you as I shall be with my daughter celebrating her birthday and also, after so many years and because I live in Suffolk, the journey is impractical. However, I enjoy hearing all the news of Slough High School and of ex-staff members who still survive! With best wishes for a very successful and happy day.

**Mrs Joyce Sprigg** (Patrick, 1950s) Please accept my apologies for my non-attendance but this comes with best wishes for the Old Paludians' Reunion and AGM. The Newsletters are much appreciated - it is good catching up with those I remember. After 12 years of drought in many areas the bush fires have been catastrophic in Victoria, resulting in the loss of many lives - 181 at the moment - and many hundreds of homes. South Australia, where I live, has been far luckier this year but we have far less forestation than the eastern states and far more desert. Life is quieter for me now, travelling curtailed by poor vision. The Vision Impaired group thrives, however, with 25-30 people at meetings. Apart from coach trips and meals out I arrange interesting speakers for the regular meetings - very friendly, pleasant people who make the best of things. Again, all good wishes.

**Marjorie Gibbs** (Frost, 1974-80) Thank you for the invitation to the 2009 reunion. I am unable to attend but wish you all well. I don't expect there are many of my generation left. Best wishes for a successful day and please remember me to any who might have known me.

**Mrs Anne Orchard** (1969-85) I'm sorry that I am unable to attend the Reunion but I am waiting to have an operation on my foot.

#### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**Mrs Phyllis Binstead** (1947-76) died in Frome, Somerset in July 2008. She taught Chemistry, and with her husband Stewart (SGS 1945-77) enjoyed many trips after retirement exploring different countries in Europe, both by themselves, with their extended family, and more latterly, with Probus. They also visited their daughter Elisabeth (1955-62) and her family in Australia a number of times. Phyllis had been largely house-bound since breaking her hip in a fall in 2002 but managed to retain her cheerful nature and optimistic view of life. Miss Rowland visited a number of times and helped her to keep in touch with the happenings of the 'more mature' ex-members of staff!

**Miss Saunderson** (SHS 1947-82, UGS 1982-85) - *A Tribute from Margaret Rowland.*

I have known Stella for over 60 yrs - even longer than she sang with the Slough Philharmonic. She was a colleague at SHS for 30 years and as we both stayed in Slough after our retirement we remained close friends. For many of those years we were holiday companions travelling on the continent and touring in the UK. Strangely enough, though an excellent geographer, she was not an entirely reliable navigator. Thus, one day, aiming for Ely Cathedral, we actually arrived at an American air base and discovered that the road we thought we were following was actually a parish boundary! We were to meet a friend for coffee at 10 a.m. (one of those people to whom 10a.m. meant 10a.m.) and we did not make it! One of the many things I shall always remember is Stella's amazing memory. She recognised most of her ex-pupils and not only *really* remembered them, but also knew who were their contemporaries and what they did after leaving school. I have not been blessed with such a memory so will miss being able to pick her brains about our shared past both as friends and colleagues. Stella was also a long-standing member of the Old Paludians Association, attending many reunions and meeting up with old colleagues and friends.

**Mr Richard 'Dick' Taylor** (1965-1984) Mr Dick Taylor, who taught Mathematics at Slough Grammar School and Upton Grammar School for many years and became Head of Mathematics on the retirement of Mr 'GAD' Dickenson, has died following a fall. He joined the RAF working on Blind Landing systems, learning practical electrical skills that would remain with him throughout his life. He studied Mathematics at Birkbeck College during evening classes, and took his teaching qualifications at Culham College, Abingdon, in Oxfordshire. At his first teaching position at John Hampden Grammar School, he met his future wife Val and, in 1965, they moved to Slough, with Dick joining SGS and Val joining SHS.

Colleagues remember his easily-approachable style, his tireless efforts and probably the wall of smoke around the bridge table in the Staff Room. Students will remember his quiet infectious enthusiasm in his subject (often referred to as 'Sums' rather than Mathematics), and sharing the enjoyment of any problem as a challenge to be overcome. Those students number at least 3 current university professors (Stats, Chemistry and Engineering). On GAD's retirement, Dick took over as Head of Mathematics, which position he then held until retirement. With the SHS merger in 1982, Dick again shared a staffroom with his wife, who subsequently took over from him as Head of Mathematics. Mr Taylor will be remembered at Reunion 2009. *Our thanks to Ian Cairns for writing this obituary - Ed*  
**Mr Brian Roberts** (1968-1988) Deputy Head of Slough Grammar School and Upton Grammar School until his retirement, Brian Roberts died in March last year. In this post he always set himself the highest professional standards and looked for similar approaches in return. He was meticulous, thorough and dependable in every task he undertook. He showed a fine sense of humour as well as firm discipline when needed. In his dealings with others he was tactful and concerned. His nickname 'Pop' was a true reflection of the esteem in which he was held by staff and pupils. He knew them all and will be sadly missed.

*Editor's Note: Sometimes we are unaware of the passing of members and are informed too late for inclusion in the Newsletter for that particular year. Even if a considerable time has elapsed we like to include notes about those who have died because their former colleagues, school friends and contemporaries like to recall happier times. The gift of a book is given to the School Library in remembrance: each book has a special nameplate recalling names and years at the School and in this way their presence lives on in a practical way. Where possible the Librarian tries to match the interests of the member with the subject matter of the book.*

#### **\*\*1920s\*\***

**Connie Edwards** (1920-26) Connie is our most senior member and will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in July 2009. A remarkable achievement and we all send her our very best wishes for the occasion.

#### **\*\*1930s\*\***

**Marjorie Cruse** (1931-35) At my age I find it difficult to get about now and gave up driving some years ago, but I hope the reunion is a great success and wish everyone the best of luck for 2009.

**Peggy Needham** (Nicholls, 1931-36) I'm sorry I won't be with you but I am in touch with **Jean Garwood (Bayley)** and her sister **Margaret, Joan Yeatman, Ethel Walker** and **Mary Shirland (Jennings)**, who lives in Pennsylvania, USA. All best wishes and many thanks for all your efforts in keeping us together.

**Irene Anderson** (1931-38) I'm sorry I can't attend but send my greetings and good wishes to all. Long may the Old Pals flourish!

**Hilda Halls** (Milcoy, 1932-37) I am unable to make the long journey from Cornwall. Also my sister, with whom I used to be able to stay and who lived near the school, is no longer in Slough so I would have nowhere to stay. Best wishes for a successful day and please remember me to any who might have known me.

**Jane Allen** (Robinson, 1933-38) Unable to attend because of ill health. Best wishes to all.

**Doreen Pearce** (Currie, 1934-40) Still going strong, but using a stick for walking and am unable to attend. Best wishes to all I spent time with at school.

**John Ware** (1936-1941) I am sorry that I will be unable to be present at the reunion in March and I send my best wishes for a happy and successful meeting. I am still working on a full-time basis in my practice!

**Gwen Kent** (Pugh, 1936-40) I'm unable to attend this year but send best wishes to all.

**Barbara Longman** (Wardall, 1937-42) I would love to be able to attend but live too far away. Best wishes to all.

**Jean Bostock** (Burnett, 1936-41) Unable to attend as distance and advancing years prevent this, although I shall be there in spirit!

**Pamela Main** (Sheppard, 1938-43) Unable to attend but wishing you all a happy day.

**George Lucas** (1938-44) Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the annual OPA Reunion this year.

March 21st is my elder son Malcolm's birthday - also an Old Pal - and we will be celebrating this event (amongst other things) in Egypt. I sincerely trust that a good time will be had by all at the meeting.

**Eugene Hamblet** (1939-41) A hip operation at the beginning of February may prevent my attending but all the best to everyone if I'm not there.

**Betty Absolon** (Chapman 1939-45) As one of the youngest members of our form we must now all have become octogenarians. My sincere thanks to the OPA Committee for over the last 64 years giving us news of SHS members and staff so we still feel a connection with our schooldays which, throughout the war, were very special. I regret I no longer feel able to travel to the meetings but send best wishes to all.

**Joyce Amoroso** (Kirtland, 1939-45) Dear Old Pals, We are both still alive - Kit coming 85 and me 81! I have a daughter who will be an OAP this week - ouch! She's looking forward to her bus pass! We got a card from the Queen for our 60th wedding anniversary last year. Quite an achievement in this day and age! Give my regards to all who knew me and best wishes for a good day.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Peter Bennett** (1930-36). Sadly Peter died this January - he would have been 90 in June. He was the chief author of our first OP book "Recollections of Slough Secondary School and the Old Paludians". He was the last boy to go through the doors of the old Slough Secondary School in July 1936 after a nostalgic walk through the corridors, out onto the Lower Field and on through the gates, with one last look at the building. (Lascelles Road became the home for the boys in September 1936.) Peter joined the Old Paludians when he left school and maintained a lifetime's involvement with the Association. He had a most distinguished service during WW2 having seen action on 3 continents and he attained the rank Captain. We will miss a most loyal servant of the Old Paludians and give thanks for his very full life. We offer our condolences to his nephew Clive.

**Len Thorne** (1934-36). Len was an ex Battle of Britain pilot who lived for flying. In 1997, on a visit to his daughter in Texas, he was reunited with his old Spitfire, now owned by a wealthy West Texan rancher. Sitting in the cockpit again, he would have loved to have taken to the skies in it just one more time. Then in June 2000, to celebrate his 80th birthday, he flew in a somewhat unconventional way. With perfect visibility for miles, he took off in a Slingsby Firefly (not flown before until that morning) and proceeded to perform a series of hair-raising stunts above the homes of his neighbours - loops, rolls, dives and spins. It all came flooding back to him and as he said, "It does help when no-one is trying to shoot you down!" More importantly, Len was keeping a promise and his sponsored support raised almost £1600 for charity. Len retained a keen interest in the School for he had made many good friends during those two years. Len attended the Old Paludians Reunions until a few years ago to meet up with old friends - and to make some new ones too.

**Audrey Wye** (Anderson, 1934-?) We are sorry to report the death of Audrey on 21 January 2009 at the age of 84. Audrey worked for many years for Slough Social Services, until the age of 73. She was active in the Slough Talking Newspaper and the local book group, and was still driving all over the country until last year. Her father, Tom Anderson, taught for many years at SGS. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

**Margaret Hall** (Bowles, 1938-43). We are sorry to learn that Margaret died in April last year. In her youth she was a keen swimmer and hockey player but singing was also an important part of her life. She was a member of Slough Philharmonic Choral Society and also took part in several Gilbert and Sullivan operas, playing the lead in three of them. In fact it was through music that she met her husband and they would often sing duets at parties and family gatherings. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. *Our thanks to her sister Jan Cleeton (Bowles) for this information -Ed*

**\*\*1940s\*\***

**Nancy Evans** (Pardoe, 1941-43) Unable to be with you because of ill health. Best wishes to all.

**Gwen Gale** (Knight, 1941-47). I still keep in touch with some of the 1941 girls and many other Old Pals. It is always good to receive Christmas cards with little news notes. I send my best wishes to all of you.

**John Hill** (1941-47) & **Pat Hill** (Hire, 1941-47). We moved to East Bridgeford (near Nottingham) in 2005 and have settled in well in this lovely village, joining various organisations. Pat is in the W.I., Mother's Union and Gardening Club. I am the treasurer and player in the Bowls Club, Organiser of the Men's Society and a member of the History Group. I still do plenty of DIY and Pat does lots of craftwork. Please remember us to any of our old acquaintances.

**Stuart Callaway** (1942-46) Regret unable to be at the Reunion but will be on holiday at this time.

**Evelyn Greenwood** (Gibbons, 1941-46) It's good that there are Old Pals working hard to keep things running and I wish you much success. I enjoy receiving all the news from you even though I do not attend very often these days.

**Paula (Pauline) Holtum** (1942-45) I live in New Zealand and have just become a Life Member. I was at the High School for four years and remember Miss Crawford vividly - a very fair-minded Headmistress. I enrolled at the Slough Technical school after that for a commercial course. With best wishes.

**Barbara Price** (Brook, 1943-48) I shall be unable to attend the Old Pals Association meeting this year as I am quite severely disabled by osteoarthritis but I am so pleased to read news about members of my year.

**Margaret Paine** (Paine, 1943-48) Last year was good and bad for me. In May I went on a Volvo Owners' Club holiday in Denmark and Sweden with my son Robin and his wife. It was all very enjoyable, visiting the Volvo factories, museums etc with numerous other Volvo owners - very enjoyable with sunshine every day. Then in August I was rushed into hospital with a strangulated hernia thankfully caught just in time. Good health in 2009 to all my friends whether they manage to come to the reunion or are unable to make it this year.

**Mary Langford** (Winslet, 1944-49) Sorry I shall be unable to attend this year as I shall be in hospital. Best wishes to all.

**Pat Mills** (Hunt, 1945-52) Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Reunion but I wish you all a very happy day.

**John Padley-Smith** (1945-50) Many thanks for the notification of the Annual Reunion in 2009. Unfortunately I have a prior engagement on this day. However, we can only see what 2010 brings forth. My best wishes to anyone who remembers me from 1950.

**Anne Stephens** (Hales, 1946-53) Sadly I am unable to attend the Reunion this year. We have been very involved with a production of 'Oliver' in our local town. It finished on 21 February after a week of performances during half term. As my husband was performing (as well as helping to build sets) and I was the Box Office - need I say more! However, it was a fantastic success and a complete sell out for every performance - and our phones are worn out! Although I won't be with you my sister **Jackie Dibling** (Hales, 1953-59) and my cousin **Daphne Botting** (1936-42) will be. With greetings from North Wales for a happy and successful day.

**Maureen Harris** (Reardon, 1946-54) Unable to be with you but send best wishes from the north!

**Muriel Aird** (Bubb, 1946-53) I am looking forward to attending the Reunion this year with my sister Christine Robilliard (1956-60). Unfortunately we had to miss last year because of my husband's ill health. We are both looking forward to seeing the book which has been donated to the School Library in memory of our sister, Irene Elfer, who died last year. I hope to take some photographs of the book for her family. They think that the donation of a book in memory of members who have died is such a lovely gesture, and I do too. In May last year we had a visit from **Paula Atherton** (Doreen Jones, 1946-53) and her husband David. Paula and I correspond by email but it was so nice to meet up. Christine and I, together with our respective husbands, spent an enjoyable day with them. Paula studied at Weymouth College after leaving SHS, so she was very interested in visiting her old haunts and seeing

all the many changes that have taken place. We look forward to meeting again at the Reunion and hope there will be many more our year attending.

**Peter Tyler** (1946 - 51) is still playing his double bass and tuba with local bands and orchestras. One of the groups, the Maidenhead Concert Band, played at a Buckingham Palace garden party last July. Unfortunately it was one of the wettest days of the Summer, but the band played on, sheltering under canvas.

**Malcolm Hellings** (1947-52) I am sending this note to say that I will not be attending this year's reunion because Julie and I will be away that particular weekend. It will be the first reunion that I have missed for a good many years. Best wishes.

**Andrew Hudson** (1948-56) Unfortunately I shall be unable to attend this year as it clashes with the Spring Show of the Ashdown Forest Poultry Club of which my wife is Chairman and I am treasurer, membership, newsletter and website editor.

**Brian (Fred) Barnes** (1948-55) Unfortunately I will be unable to attend this year as I am taking part in a charity trek across the Sinai desert. However, my wife **Sue** (Pattemore) will attend along with her friend **Margaret Bolton** (Hewitt) both c 1952-59. Best wishes sent to all.

**Peter Burgess** (1949-54) The SGS UVB (1949-54) gang had a very successful re-union at Beaconsfield where 18 of the year enjoyed a good chat and buffet lunch at the Old Greyhound in late March 2008. We had another reunion at Chipping Norton early this March for 10 of us. We have been able to track down **Tony Bradbury** who was a star footballer of our year and a very popular member of the year plus **Tony Parsons, John Rees, Kevin Melia, Fred Harpley**.

**Valerie Storie** (1949-55) It was as a very timid 10 year old that I first ventured through the doors of Slough High School 60 years ago this September. Say it quickly and it isn't too bad but said slowly it makes you realise that you've reached your biblical age and wonder if it is all downhill from now!! In my case the answer seems to be yes as I did not get through the winter very well. However I continue to be heavily involved in Family History and I am about to stand down after 8 years as Chairman of the Windsor Branch of Berkshire FHS, though I remain the Society Secretary. Slough Community Transport takes me hither and thither and I had a number of days exploring family haunts in Sussex and North Berkshire last 'summer'. It is very rewarding and there are always such amazing coincidences in coming across villagers who have some link with the family.

Hoping to meet up with lots of '49ers - and of course, I was one of the youngest ones venturing into the unknown all those years ago. I still shake my head in disbelief when going down Twinchies Lane, what would Miss Crawford have made of DFS and Wickes and all those other monster retail outlets - not a lot I suspect.

**Eileen Pearce** (Kitch, 1949-54) Sorry can't be with you but best regards to all.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Betty Field** (Adamson, 1941-47). Betty had a great love and interest in natural history and formed The Middle Thames Natural History Society. She was also secretary of the British Hamster Society. She also bred and showed pigeons, becoming a well known judge and authority on certain breeds. She later obtained her City and Guilds in Librarianship. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. *Our thanks to Mary Adamson for passing on this information - Ed*

**Valerie Mallin** (Jones, 1943-48) Margaret Paine wrote to tell us that Valerie had passed away last year. This group of friends had attended each other's weddings then lost contact over the years. Valerie only made contact with her old friends a few years ago after another Old Pal had seen her name in the 'Lost and Found' section of the newsletter and passed on the information. She had managed to attend about three reunions. Margaret wrote 'We will miss her but we have many happy memories and were pleased to have renewed our friendship'. *Our thanks to Margaret for passing on this information - Ed*

**Peter Ridout** (1943-48) passed away in October 2007, aged 75. He was mad about all things related to sport. He played tennis for the RAF and represented his county at table tennis. He was chairman of

the Crusaders Football Club in Slough and a member of the Royal Ascot Golf Club where he also played bridge. He was married for 52 years and spent his retirement living in Bracknell, Berkshire.

**\*\*1950s\*\***

**Jean Tyler** (Ireland, 1950-56) I am just nearing the end of my year as President of the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Club of Soroptimist International. The highlights of the year were attending the 2008 Conference which was held in Barbados and welcoming, **Dr Carolyn Boulter** (Blatch, 1959-64) the current High Sheriff for Berkshire to the January business meeting. Jean is hoping to meet members who started Slough High School in 1950 at next year's reunion. Please come if you can - Ed

**Margaret Salter** (Curl, 1950-55) Unfortunately I am unable to attend. Regards

**Julia McLaren** (Basden, 1950-55) Just to let you know that I will be unable to attend this year's Reunion as I will be visiting Australia during March. I am travelling with my sister Jean Johnson (Basden) who lives in Vancouver. Her son Philip is a professor of bio-chemistry at York University, Toronto and is on a year's sabbatical to Melbourne University. It was too good a chance to miss! I hope the day goes well and I will try to attend next year.

**Clive Toogood** (1951-56), **Marjorie Toogood** (Smith, 1950-55) We will be sorry to miss the Reunion this year but this is because I still do some part time work at the local racecourses and am working at Newbury that day. As we have not attended for some years we are sending our good wishes to you all via the Newsletter.

**Bill Dacke** (1952-56) Can't be with you but best wishes to all who know me.

**Rosemary Dickens** (Bowles, 1952-58) Sorry, but I will be missing the Reunion once again but wish you a happy day.

**Jack (John) Freer** (1952-57) Unfortunately I will be sunning myself in Gran Canaria on 21st so it goes without saying I will be unable to attend the AGM. However, look forward to next year, God willing.....

**Jim Clark** (1952-59) After Nottingham University I worked in the Nottingham area for 10 years. We then moved to Maidenhead and I travelled the world for multi nationals looking at logistics issues. I was in a position to stop work when 50 and became heavily involved in the voluntary sector, Maidenhead and Windsor Crossroads, Slough Homestart, Maidenhead Family Friends and Lynch Hill School on Britwell. Sport has been a big thing for me as I played football for Slough and Wycombe while at school and Arsenal while at University - representing English and British Universities. I started rowing in my 50s and won Medals at the British and World Championships. In November 2007, I was diagnosed with aggressive, prostate cancer. However, after 8 months of all sorts of hormone treatment and radiotherapy I am pleased to say I am now in remission. I feel very well and go to the gym most days, having just returned from 2 weeks in Florida in January. I also went skiing for a week in Austria in February. I am looking forward to attending my first Reunion. *I hope the snow is as good as it was in Italy in January* - Ed.

**Betty Lambourne** (Milsom, 1953-58) I am really looking forward to this year's Reunion and meeting the class of '53 again. It is good fun exchanging news and reminiscing about school days. Last year eight of us got together for a mini Summer Reunion in Windsor at the home of **Pat Oldcorn** (Horwood) on a beautiful summer's day - **Anne Terram** (Smith), **Valerie Gomersall** (Watts), **Jackie Dibling** (Hales), **Avril Sutton** (Esson), **Jackie Matthias** (Brown), and **Linda Willis** (Partleton). Last year I was unable to attend the Reunion as it coincided with the Royal Free Singers Spring concert. I have been Concert Secretary of the Singers for the last three years. 2008 was the choir's 35th Anniversary, and we celebrated with a concert tour of Norway, exchanging with a Norwegian choir celebrating their 100th Anniversary, our own anniversary dinner, and culminating in the performance of Elgar's "The Apostles" at Eton College School Hall.

**Debbie Wright** (Bishop, 1955-62) I am living in York and working 2½ days a week as a medical secretary for a GPs practice about a mile from home. The work is really interesting and we have to be alert because the rules governing referrals change all the time. I do a lot of music on the other 2½ days - playing in trios, quartets, quintets and sextets; singing with other Quakers and playing my



descant, treble or tenor recorder in a really good recorder group. My two daughters and their families live in Harrogate and Farnborough.

**Clare Fear** (Wignall, 1955-60) I've lived in Spain for almost 23 years and, having seen the snow in GB I can say no, we don't get snow, but the Sierra Nevada ski resort is only an hour or so away. This is one of the few places where you can ski in the morning and sunbathe in the afternoon. My friend from Slough, **Michael Taylor**, is coming to the reunion from deepest California. If I get over I will be coming with **Pat Loveday** (Coleman) who lived next door to Michael. I think it's a case of both of us or neither (a bit like school really). I wonder what happened to my classmates. There was the lovely Della whose surname I have forgotten but who sang on the radio when we were in our 3rd year. In fact my only friend from those days who is also a member here is Pat. Quite a few used to come over to Richings Park where I lived to stay for the weekend. In fact when Pat and I found each other again (through Friends Reunited!) she came over to visit and my mother was reminding us of all the things we used to get up to. She remembered far more than we did! Pat and I lost contact when both sets of parents moved and we were both so busy with our new lives. I wonder if anyone remembers when they were shooting a film in the field next door, between the school and the main road, with Shirley Eaton? How amazingly beautiful she was.

For someone who couldn't wait to leave school and the area I have a lot of very happy memories.

**Ruth Sheppard** (Clark, 1955-62) This year has been busy as usual, and as eventful musically as I can ever remember with recitals, shows and concerts happening almost every month. John and I were both in "La Belle Helene" at Maidenhead Town Hall last November. That reminded me of the school trip to Paris in 1960 when we saw that show on my sixteenth birthday. My sister, **Lorna**, and I went to Miss Saunderson's funeral and were overwhelmed at the sight of Hitcham Church bursting at the seams! We will all miss her. Last year I was pleased to meet up with **Linda Osborn** (Handcock) and hope to see more friends this time as **Kathy**, my sister, cannot come. Looking forward to a great day.

**Christine Elbourne** (Hampshire, 1955-63) I don't think I'll be able to make the Reunion this year. We've just retired to our house in France and are still busy settling in. And the dire exchange rate encourages us to stay put and not spend money! Best wishes to Shelagh and the rest of our year group, who seem to be pretty active in the Association.

**Bob Moss** (1956-63) Another 1956-intake pupil surfaced back in November when **Mic McCrory** met up with **Robin Hannigan** at Sonning Golf Club - Mic lives near the club in Woodley. He is unlikely to attend Old Pals' reunions but expressed interest in meeting up with former classmates at one of our summer barbecues, so we hope to see him then. Meanwhile, he sends best wishes to anyone who remembers him. *If anyone wishes to contact Mic personally, his email details can be obtained from Bob Moss through Valerie Storie (membership secretary).*

**Christine Seaville** (Herman, 1957-62) Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year's Reunion but thank you ALL for the hard work once again.

**Tina Johnstone** (McDonald, 1959-61) Unfortunately I am unable to attend the reunion as I have lived in Australia since 1961. We shall be visiting England again in May/June - what a shame we never think to time our visits to correspond with the reunion. It's a little difficult to do so though because we generally book our trips at least six months in advance, so we would still be guessing at the actual reunion date even if we came in March. It's probably very cold in March anyway, compared to the high temperatures we are still having at that time of year. We're a bit soft - Bill is an Aussie so he's never experienced an English winter and having been here 48 years myself, I've all but forgotten what they're like too. Have a wonderful reunion and I won't give up hoping that one day I will be able to send a reply in the positive! Best wishes

**John Overton** (1959-67; Head Boy 1966-67) I retired at the end of August 2008, after a career as a patent attorney, mostly spent in industry. For just over 30 years, I worked for Shell, the last 10½ years as head of Shell's London patents division. I look forward to meeting everyone in the afternoon.

**\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Nina Ringrose** (Ollis, 1950-56). Avril Sutton (Esson, 1953-58) wrote: 'I am sorry to report that Nina died after an asthma attack many years ago. Before she married, she lived with her parents two doors from where I lived. After they were married, Nina lived in Knutsford with husband John and their two children but I think they were adults when she died. I saw husband John together with Boyd, Faye and partners when her father Lawrence Ollis died in about 1999'. *Our thanks to Avril for passing on this information - Ed*

**Ian Mitchell Lambert** (1953-57). We have heard that Ian died in 2004. Although this happened some time ago, we felt we should pass on the news to his friends and acquaintances in the Old Pals. We will remember him at the reunion this year.

#### **\*\*1960s\*\***

*The following news from Brenda arrived too late for inclusion in last year's newsletter, but we felt it should be included this time- Ed :*

**Brenda Smith** (Dilley, 1962-69) wrote: 'Sorry I can't make it this year (2008) but one of these days I will be able to coincide a trip home to England with an Old Pals Reunion! I hope it is a most enjoyable occasion for all those that can attend. I was interested to read about the Egglestaff family (*in 2008 newsletter*) as I was at school with Jane and Sue. Sue and I did a lot of athletics together and through this I got to know John and Joyce. I had no idea until now that their family had such a long association with the school(s). If they are at the reunion please remember me to them'.

**Tony Cullingworth** (1960s) Thanks for the information and invitation to the Old Pals reunion, but since retiring we have moved to Yorkshire, which is rather a long way to come. So I'm delighted to stay in touch, but unlikely to show up for any of the 'dos'. Incidentally, I now live within five miles of the village of Cullingworth! *So much for globalisation! - Ed*

**Shirley Sherwood** (Denndoerfer, 1964-69) Sorry, but I won't be able to attend the Reunion this year but send best wishes to all.

**Sally Davies** (Brazier, 1967-74). I will not be able to attend but hope you all have an enjoyable day.

**Christina (Tina) Francis** (Burrell-Davis, 1968-75) Still living near Bracknell. Am now in my 31st year of teaching! For the past 11 years have been at the Marist Prep School, Sunninghill, Ascot where I am head of Key Stage 1. I am still in touch with **Debra Pack (Baldock)**, **Madeline Young**, **Alison Garnett (Pull)**, **Fiona Green** and **Cheryl Dobbs (Pride)**. Best wishes to **Mrs Baker** - she was a great Spanish teacher. Would love to know what happened to **Mrs Twine** - she was a great English teacher who sadly left before A-levels.

#### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Michael Paxton** (1960-68). David Rogers wrote 'We heard recently of Michael's death, aged 59. Contemporaries will remember him as a fine sportsman who represented Buckinghamshire in swimming, basketball and football during his time at school. *Our thanks to David for passing on this sad news-Ed*

#### **\*\*1970s\*\***

**Ms Sandy Dale** (1971-78) I'm sorry I won't be able to attend but it's a bit too far to come. I hope you have a great reunion.

Anyone out there from **\*\*1980s\*\*** or even the **\*\*1990s\*\***?

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*From time to time we hear news of the passing of non-members, which we include in the newsletters as there are bound to be members and friends who knew them:*

**Evelyne Smeltzer** (Stutt 1930-36) **Joan Hedge** (Stutt 1936-44) wrote that her sister, Evelyne, died in September 2008, aged 88.

**Michael Green** (1947-51) Although Michael did not belong to the OPA, nor are we aware that he attended any reunions, he was well-liked and respected by the Langley community for the work he and his wife did for the Church of Christ the Worker. We are all saddened to hear of his passing and are sure that he will be remembered by former school friends. *Thanks to Malcolm Hellings for this sad information -Ed*

**Sylvia Hargreaves** (Wickenden 1949-1954). Passed away in 2007. Remembered by a classmate as being a mischievous pupil with a mop of silvery curls. Just what was she doing in that cupboard whilst we were slogging away with maths?? *Thanks to Valerie Storie for passing on this sad news-Ed*  
Our thoughts go to all those mentioned in our 'In Memoriam' lists and they will be sincerely remembered at our annual reunion.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events etc. and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road we hope to see you at our Reunions and other functions. On the other hand, don't let distance put you off, we regularly have members from USA and Europe as well as all over UK join us on Reunion Day. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown interest or made contact during the previous year.

*If anyone has been omitted, our apologies and the omission will be rectified next time - Ed.*

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2008 - 2009

#### 1950s

Jim Clark 1952-59

Irene Brooks (Cox) 1956-61

David Hannigan 1957-62

Julia Morgan (Seagrove) 1954-5

Marion Skuse (Jones) 1955-62

#### 1980s

Natalie Lennon 1988-92

#### Members of staff

David Whitehouse 1976- 2007

Shelagh Whitehouse 1992-2008

### MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Valerie Storie is the Membership Secretary and continues her excellent work maintaining the records in our database. New applications for membership should be addressed to her (see back page) as well as notification of any changes of address/email.

Details of members' names, addresses, years at school etc., are held in a computer database strictly in accordance with the rules governing Data Protection. Your attention is drawn to this fact. Such information is used solely for mailing and Old Paludians purposes and is not divulged to other organisations. Should you have any objection to this we can arrange for your name to be removed and any correspondence will be dealt with by hand. This is your right under the Data Protection Act and we will assume you have no such objection unless otherwise informed.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** *A number of our members have included addresses etc asking for friends to make contact. We do encourage this and many friendships have been renewed. However we are bound by the Data Protection Act and all we ask you to do if you wish to make contact is to give me a quick phone call or drop me a line/email and I will let you have the address and/or phone details. Please don't be put off from making contact but we want you to be safe and enjoy your friendships without worry. My details are at the end of the Newsletter - or contact Valerie, the Membership Secretary. Perhaps next year we can have a few stories about your renewed contact and how those years just rolled away once you got talking.*

**OUR WEBSITE** Our website continues to be instantly available 24 hours a day wherever you are in the world. We have no doubt that it is possibly the largest, and best, dedicated school site of its kind in Britain and thanks are due to our excellent Webmasters, **Ian and Colin Cairns**. Why not have a look at <[www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)>? As promised, we have now reloaded all our photographs and added some new ones - approx 400 in total and more to come! These will be found in the new area marked "Wikispaces Photos". Within a short period, you too can be editing the names on these photos if you wish, or just browsing them. If you feel you are able to help, please have a look at the new Wiki section, and see whether you can assist the identification of the people on the photographs - the backlog of names will be incorporated in due course.

**OUR WEBSITE CDROMs** We have for some years been producing a CDROM of our website, containing all the photos and all the names that we have, as at the production date. This has been helpful when most Old Paludians had slow dial-up connections to the Internet and wished to avoid downloading all our large school photos. However, the CDROM was fixed on its production date, and could only be replaced - not updated. Nowadays, many Old Paludians have fast broadband access to the Internet, and it is little trouble to download the latest photos/latest names straight from our website - so the CDROM has slightly less usefulness. Our new Wiki website has altered the format, and we continue to research the easiest way to incorporate this new format onto our CDROM. Unfortunately, we have still not yet completed our research. The result is that although we are always pleased to receive indications of interest, we are unable to fulfil any orders for CDROMs for the near future.

## *Lost and Found*



### **We've found:**

**Tony Rowe** (1950-57)

**Michael Cousins** (1950-57)

**Gloria Coulson** (1950-56)

**Mic McCrory** (1956-63)

**Irene Brooks** (Cox, 1956-61). Valerie Storie wrote: I found Irene, well, she found me really - we met whilst we were both were languishing at a Mayor's reception last May. *Thank you for your detective work!* - Ed

*but.....*



**We've lost touch with:**

**Christina (Tina) Francis** (Burrell-Davis, 1968 - 1975) would like to hear news of **Mrs Twine**, an ex-member of staff who taught English.

**Gwen Gale** (Knight, 1941-47) would love to hear any news of **Flo Marshall**, **Jean Buckner** and **Eileen John** (all 1941 intake)

**Judy Farrow** (Paine, 1975-80) would like to hear from any of her old friends from these years.

**Peter Burgess** (1949-54) is looking for **Peter Ashley**, **John Dilly**, **Brian Billington**, **Johnny Hines**, **Len Wakefield**

**Sally Lovelock** (Fryett) is looking for **Imade Iyare**. Sally is the sister of **Alan Fryett** (SGS Staff 1960-67)

THE SHOW MUST GO ON – Can you help?

We need more members to join the committee for 2009/10.

We are looking for a minutes secretary, a secretary to process the replies for the reunion and a treasurer. The committee meets four times a year.

**If you can help please contact the Chairman, Jean Tyler, tel: 01628 621560**

### **Missing – one Processional Cross**

**Ken Bryant** is looking for information about the Processional Cross which Miss J. M. Crawford presented to St Laurence Church, Upton. In particular he wants to know the date when this presentation was made.

**Please contact the Chairman Jean Tyler (01628 621560) or membership secretary Valerie Storie (01628 605411).**

### **Is this a record?**

**Hilda Murphy** (Wingrove) and **Paddy Shaw** (Turvill) have attended every reunion except two since they left school in 1941, making it **65** reunions in all.

Congratulations to you both!

### Important date for your Diary

*The Old Paludians Annual Reunion  
2010  
will be held on  
Saturday 20th March*

The format will be similar to this year. Invitation letters will be despatched by the end of January 2010.

#### The Old Paludians: 2009 -2010

Chairman	Jean Tyler: 1 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 0DW. Tel: 01628 621560      email: chairman@oldpaludians.org
Secretary	Contact Jean Tyler
Acting	Shirley Lane: 10, Springfield Rd, Brands Hill, SLOUGH, Berks
Treasurer	Tel: 01753 683986      email: treasurer@oldpaludians.org
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*The Old Paludians Book*

## ~~~~~ *School Ties* ~~~~~

### *Further recollections of the Old Paludians*

Published in 2005 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians.

Once again Old Paludians have drawn upon their memories - 180 pages of schooldays, perhaps in times of war or national strife, perhaps special personal occasions that stay forever in the mind. Maybe starting school as timid pupils or leaving school as confident young adults. Friendships that have passed every possible test of time and are still fresh today - places - hilarious memories - poignant memories. They are all here, recorded forever and giving an intriguing overview of school years against a background of the social life of Slough. It is a 'must have' for all members and will make a special present for families and friends. The order form is once again re-printed below. Copies have been read and passed along to family, friends and colleagues all over the world. Don't miss out - make sure you have your own copy!



\*\*\*\*\*

#### *School Ties - further recollections of the Old Paludians*

I wish to order ..... book(s) <b>SCHOOL TIES</b> which I will collect @ <b>£10 each</b>	£.....
I wish to order ..... book(s) to be sent by post @ <b>£11.50 each</b>	£.....
I wish to order .....book(s) to be sent overseas @ <b>£13.00 each</b>	£.....
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>£.....</b>

NAME (please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

.....Post code .....

If you would like to order a copy of 'School Ties' please complete and return the form above to:

Mrs Jean Tyler, 1, Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW

Cheques made payable to ' The Old Paludians ' please.

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